

months after they died flying planes into the Twin Towers in New York City. But the really shocking statistic was not that, it was the fact that the student visas were approved 13 months after these two terrorists graduated from flight school. The purpose for which the student visas were applied for had been fulfilled, and they should have left the country promptly after their course of study was concluded. They did not, and the rest is history, and over 3,000 people died as a result of that.

What this legislation does is that it provides a student visa tracking system so if someone enters the United States on a student visa and either does not show up at school, drops out of school, gets kicked out of school, or graduates from school, then the INS will know about it and take the appropriate action to make sure that those students return to their home countries.

Had this type of a system proposed by this bill been up and functional on September 11, Mr. Atta and his conspirator would not have been in the United States to go to an American airport to hijack two American planes and to kill thousands of people.

That is why it is important that this bill be passed, so that future Attas who wish to exploit the weaknesses in our visa system and to abuse the hospitality that is extended to them by the American people at American institutions will no longer be able to do so. I urge the House to concur in the Senate amendments.

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, as co-chairman of the House Border Caucus and a representative of South Texas, I rise in support of H.R. 3525, the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act and thank the House for moving this bill so quickly after Senate passage.

It is an important bill for the security of the nation—and my district sits square on some of the real estate most affected by our border policies. It ensures safety for the people within this country's borders and provides the tools necessary to the U.S. Customs and the Immigration and Naturalization Service to better serve the American people.

Most importantly for the taxpayers in my district, the bill also has a provision to extend the border crossing card deadline for residents along the Southwestern border of the United States. This extension will provide a much-needed boost to the economies that have suffered since the tragic attacks of September 11th.

After the attacks, Congress stopped work on a stand-alone bill with bi-partisan support to extend the deadline for one year to October 1, 2002. With the extension in today's bill, until Oct. 1, 2002, consumers whose lives transverse the border can conduct business normally again. Regular border shoppers can—after we finish this bill—use their border crossing cards to go to school, to go to work, to go shopping, or visit their families. They can once again participate in the border economy.

The Southwestern border is vitally important to the United States. It is the gateway to the United States from Latin and South America.

It is the port-of-entry for one of our most valued trading partners, and it represents the rich diversity of immigrants on which this country was founded. This bill is an excellent first step in recognizing that fact.

The Southwestern border, according to a recent U.S. Chamber of Commerce report, has a population of 6.2 million people in the U.S. and approximately 4.3 million people in Mexico. The buying power of border residents is immense and the economy of South Texas depends on their participation in our marketplace. In my district alone, 75–80% of Brownsville's downtown retail sales normally come from people crossing the border.

Since September 11th this number has dropped. This same report also cites the border crossing card deadline as one of the main reasons that fewer people are crossing the border. The economic effects of the attacks in September were bad for the country; they were devastating for the Southwestern border.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 3525.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed until tomorrow.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 6:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on motions to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 2911, by the yeas and nays;

House Concurrent Resolution 271, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

HARVEY W. WILEY FEDERAL BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 2911.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2911, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 402, nays 0, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 127]

YEAS—402

Abercrombie	Conyers	Goodlatte
Aderholt	Cooksey	Gordon
Akin	Cox	Goss
Allen	Coyne	Graham
Andrews	Cramer	Granger
Armey	Crenshaw	Graves
Baca	Crowley	Green (TX)
Bachus	Cubin	Green (WI)
Baird	Culberson	Greenwood
Baldacci	Cummings	Grucci
Baldwin	Cunningham	Gutknecht
Ballenger	Davis (CA)	Hall (OH)
Barcia	Davis (IL)	Hall (TX)
Barr	Davis, Jo Ann	Hansen
Barrett	Davis, Tom	Harman
Bartlett	Deal	Hart
Barton	DeFazio	Hastings (FL)
Bass	DeGette	Hastings (WA)
Becerra	Delahunt	Hayes
Bentsen	DeLauro	Hayworth
Bereuter	DeLay	Hefley
Berkley	DeMint	Heger
Berman	Deutsch	Hill
Berry	Diaz-Balart	Hilleary
Biggert	Dicks	Hilliard
Bilirakis	Dingell	Hinche
Bishop	Doggett	Hinojosa
Blumenauer	Dooley	Hobson
Blunt	Doolittle	Hoeffel
Boehlert	Doyle	Hoekstra
Boehner	Dreier	Holden
Bonilla	Duncan	Holt
Bono	Dunn	Honda
Boozman	Edwards	Hooley
Borski	Ehlers	Horn
Boswell	Ehrlich	Hostettler
Boucher	Emerson	Houghton
Boyd	Engel	Hoyer
Brady (PA)	English	Hulshof
Brady (TX)	Eshoo	Hyde
Brown (FL)	Etheridge	Inslee
Brown (SC)	Evans	Isakson
Bryant	Everett	Israel
Burr	Farr	Issa
Callahan	Fattah	Istook
Calvert	Ferguson	Jackson (IL)
Camp	Filner	Jackson-Lee
Cannon	Flake	(TX)
Cantor	Fletcher	Jefferson
Capito	Foley	Jenkins
Capps	Forbes	John
Capuano	Ford	Johnson (CT)
Cardin	Frank	Johnson (IL)
Carson (OK)	Frelinghuysen	Johnson, E. B.
Castle	Frost	Johnson, Sam
Chabot	Galleghy	Jones (NC)
Chambliss	Ganske	Kanjorski
Clay	Gekas	Kaptur
Clayton	Gephardt	Keller
Clement	Gibbons	Kelly
Clyburn	Gilchrest	Kennedy (MN)
Coble	Gillmor	Kennedy (RI)
Collins	Gilman	Kerns
Combest	Gonzalez	Kildee
Condit	Goode	Kilpatrick